



Swan Orchard, Pewsey, SN9 5DF

Ecological Walkover Survey



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The results of the survey and assessment work undertaken by All Ecology are representative at the time of surveying.

Every endeavour has been made to identify the presence of protected species on site, where this falls within the agreed scope of works.

The flora and fauna detailed within this report are those noted during the field survey and from anecdotal evidence. It should not be viewed as a complete list of flora and fauna species that may frequent or exist on site at other times of the year.

Up to date standard methodologies have been used, which are accepted by Natural England and other statutory conservation bodies. No responsibility will be accepted where these methodologies fail to identify all species on-site.

All Ecology cannot take responsibility where Government, national bodies or industry subsequently modify standards.

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Reference to sections or particular paragraphs of this document taken out of context may lead to misrepresentation.

Executive Summary

In June 2025, All Ecology was commissioned to undertake an Ecological Walkover Survey of a site known as Swan Orchard, Pewsey. The site is approximately 0.13 ha comprising of a narrow band of woodland located alongside Swan Meadow Road and on the northern edge of a grassland field.

The proposals for the site are to seek planning permission for the erection of two residential dwellings with access off Swan Meadow.

The grassland sward on site was clearly not of sufficient diversity to meet the criteria to qualify as NERC Priority Habitat; no further grassland survey is deemed necessary and no significance is associated with the clearance of grassland within the application site boundary.

The on-site woodland is unlikely to be classified as a NERC Priority Habitat (Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland) given its small area, abundance of Norway Maple and lack of significant shrub layer. No significance is associated with the removal of an area of this woodland, in regards to its habitat, provided this is mitigated by new planting of woodland habitat in the local area.

The site was found to provide the following potential for fauna:

- Bats – Roosting bats are expected to be absent from the site. The site provides bat foraging habitat associated with the woodland with limited potential for commuting bats along woodland edge. There will be a minor loss of foraging habitat but a near continuous canopy will be maintained so that bats' ability to commute through/past the site is not expected to be negatively impact provided a suitable lighting strategy is implemented. Provided this can be achieved, further bat activity surveys are not required.
- Dormice – The site provides potential Dormouse habitat within the woodland. Woodland removal is proposed to allow for the development. The on-site woodland is sub-optimal for Dormice given its small size, low woodland species diversity limiting foraging opportunities and lack of a diverse shrub layer. Suitable habitat on site is small in area and this being the case, a full survey for this species is not possible and in any case this species is expected to be absent. Works may proceed according to a method statement detailing precautionary methods of working for this species when removing woodland habitat.
- Badgers and other mammals – Hedgehogs and common small mammals are expected to be present on site but potential for other protected or notable species is limited to passing mammals. Precautionary methods of working to avoid trapping these species and other mammals have been suggested.
- Birds – The site provides nesting opportunities for common bird species. Any works that may impact or disturb potential nesting habitats such as tree/woodland removal and clearance of understorey shrubs should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season unless a pre-works survey confirms absence.

Suggestions for mitigation and enhancement given.

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1.0 Introduction

Background

- 1.1 All Ecology was commissioned to undertake an Ecological Walkover survey of a site known as Swan Orchard, Pewsey. The site is approximately 0.13 ha comprising of a narrow band of woodland located alongside Swan Meadow Road and on the northern edge of a grassland field. The site is located on the southern edge of Pewsey Village, Wiltshire. The local area is a mosaic of grassland fields, orchard and residential settlement with field boundary hedgerows and small pockets of woodland.
- 1.2 The proposals for the site are to seek planning permission for the erection of two residential dwellings with access off Swan Meadow.

Objectives and Aim

- 1.3 The main objectives and aim of the survey were to identify features of ecological interest, undertake a basic search of habitats present for evidence of use, or potential use, by protected species, and to identify any other possible ecological constraints to the proposed development.

Site Location



Figure 1: Site location plan.

Aerial Photograph



Figure 2: Aerial photograph.

2.0 Methodology

Personnel

- 2.1 The survey was carried out by Daniel Roberts BSc Hons, and overseen by James Godbeer BSc Hons MCIEEM, an ecologist with over 18 years' experience working as a consultant. James has extensive experience of managing environmental contracts, and particular experience in surveying, assessment and mitigation for rare and protected species. He has considerable knowledge of the development and planning process including Ecological Impact Assessments, sustainable ecological design and he has completed ecology chapters of Environmental Statements. James holds a number of protected species licences including bats (all species, all counties, Class Licence Registration No. 2015-12313-CLS-CLS), and Great Crested Newts (Class Licence Registration No. 2019-44282-CLS-CLS). He has successfully obtained European Protected Species mitigation licences for a number of bat species including Lesser Horseshoe, Greater Horseshoe, Serotine, Brown Long-eared, Common Pipistrelle and Natterer's bats, for a number of roost types including maternity and hibernation sites.

Habitat Survey

- 2.2 The site was visited on the 9th June 2025 and surveyed in accordance with UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) methodology. This was used to categorise and map the primary habitat types present within the survey area using a standard set of habitat categories, with associated secondary codes/features identified where applicable (UKHab Ltd, 2023). Details of current management and habitat condition have also been recorded where appropriate.
- 2.3 This technique provides an inventory of the basic habitat types present and allows identification of areas of greater potential that might warrant further study.
- 2.4 The presence/absence of injurious and legally controlled weeds was also determined.

Fauna

- 2.5 The habitats present on the site were searched for signs of animal activity. The trees were assessed for their potential to support bat roosts by visually inspecting them from the ground using binoculars and high-powered torches where appropriate. Potential roosting features such as gaps, holes, cavities or splits were recorded and then inspected where possible for signs of bats, which including grease/urine stains, scratch marks, droppings or the bats themselves.
- 2.6 The site and surroundings, for a minimum distance of 30 m where access was available, were searched for signs of Badgers. These include setts, latrines, dung pits, snuffle marks or hairs caught in hedges or on fencing.
- 2.7 A casual search for evidence of Dormice such as nests and/or gnawed nuts was also carried out.
- 2.8 Incidental observations of invertebrates and birds were recorded and a search made for any signs of previous nesting.
- 2.9 Any refuges on site such as logs or other debris were lifted and inspected for reptiles and amphibians. In regards to Great Crested Newts, there are no ponds on site but one within 250

m located in a garden approximately 230 m to the southeast. This pond was subject to the Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) Assessment to assess suitability for this species.

- 2.10 The HSI is a measure of habitat quality using a numerical index between 0 and 1 derived from an assessment of variables known to influence the presence of Great Crested Newts (Oldham et al. 2000). It is used to assess whether a water body warrants detailed surveys to establish presence or absence of newts and aids in the assessment of impacts and the design of mitigation measures.
- 2.11 To calculate the HSI of the water bodies, ecologists first record the following variables before applying the HSI calculation to these: pond size; surface area; water depth; water quality; % shade, % macrophyte cover; presence of fish and waterfowl; number of water bodies within 1 km of survey water body; quality of terrestrial habitat surrounding pond and wet ditch; and type of marginal/aquatic vegetation (Oldham et al. 2000).
- 2.12 Once the HSI score is obtained it can be used to define water body suitability for Great Crested Newts in the following way (National Amphibian Recording Scheme, 2008):

Table 1: HSI Scores

<0.5	Poor
0.5 – 0.59	Below Average
0.6 – 0.69	Average
0.7 – 0.79	Good
>0.8	Excellent

- 2.13 Water bodies scoring above 0.5 are deemed as having potential to support Great Crested Newts and further surveys are usually required.

Equipment

- 2.14 Equipment used to aid the survey included a high-powered torch, binoculars and a camera.

Valuation of Ecological Features

- 2.15 The valuation process used in this report follows the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2018).
- 2.16 The value of areas of habitat and plant communities has been measured against published criteria where available. Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been searched to identify whether action has been taken to protect all areas of a particular habitat and to identify current factors causing loss and decline of particular habitats. The presence of injurious and legally controlled weeds has also been taken into account.

- 2.17 When assigning a level of value to a species, its distribution and status (including a consideration of trends based on available historic records) has been taken into account. Other factors influencing the value of a species are: legal protection, rarity and Species Action Plans (SAPs). Guidance, where it is available, for the identification of populations of sufficient size for them to be considered of national or international importance has also been taken into account.

Nomenclature

- 2.18 The English name only of flora and fauna species is given in the main text of this report; however, scientific names are used for invertebrates where no English name is available. Vascular plants and charophytes follow the nomenclature of The Botanical Society for the British Isles (BSBI) 2007 database (BSBI, 2007) with all other flora and fauna following the Nameserver facility of the National Biodiversity Network Species Dictionary (<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nbn/>), which is managed by the Natural History Museum.

Limitations

- 2.19 The site was fully accessible with no limitations to the survey.

3.0 Results

Habitats

- 3.1 The following habitats or vegetation types were identified during the course of the habitat survey:
- Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland (w1g – Other broadleaved woodland)
 - Improved grassland (g4 – Modified grassland)
 - Tall ruderal (BNG17 – ruderal/ephemeral)
- 3.2 The majority of the site is occupied by a narrow band of woodland that lies parallel to Swan Meadow. The woodland is primarily formed of Norway Maple and Common Lime trees with a small number of Ash, a Horse-chestnut and Field Maple. There are small pockets of understorey shrubs comprising of Elder, Holly, Blackthorn and Hazel with Bramble also noted. The ground of the western half of the woodland is largely unvegetated with ground flora in the eastern half of the woodland comprising of locally abundant Garlic Mustard and frequent Common Nettle, Cow Parsley and Wood Avens. Occasional Ground-ivy, Hogweed, Ivy and Cleavers were recorded forming part of ground cover with rare occurrences of Bramble, Creeping Thistle, Prickly Sow-thistle, Hedge Woundwort and Lords-and-ladies.
- 3.3 A road verge is present between the woodland and Swan Meadow. This verge is covered with tall ruderal habitat dominated by Common Nettle but also with Wood Avens, Cow Parsley, Hogweed, Willowherb sp., Broad-leaved Dock, Cleavers and Ivy. False Oat-grass and Creeping Buttercup were recorded along the road edge.
- 3.4 The site encroaches upon a grassland field immediately south of the woodland. Grassland within the field appeared to be frequently cut and had a short sward height at the time of survey. The grassland within the application boundary was formed of a small variety of common grasses including False Oat-grass, Cock's-foot, Yorkshire-fog and Meadow-grass sp. Forbs recorded within the sward comprised of Common Ragwort, Broad-leaved Dock, Creeping Buttercup and Ribwort Plantain.



Photograph 1: Narrow woodland.



Photograph 2: Centre of the woodland.



Photograph 3: Largely unvegetated woodland floor within the western half of the woodland.



Photograph 4: Ground flora in the eastern half of the woodland.



Photograph 5: Grassland field.



Photograph 6: Tall ruderals dominating the road verge.

Fauna

Bats

3.5 The following table presents the nature of the habitats on the site and connectivity into the wider area in relation to their potential importance to bats.

Table 2: Details of habitats in relation to foraging and commuting bats.

Habitats	Description
Site habitat	The site is predominately broad-leaved woodland surrounded by road and residential settlement to the north, grassland fields to the south and west and residential dwellings with associated gardens to the east.
Potential roosting features in trees	One tree in poor condition had a branch split, an upward facing knot hole leading to an internal cavity and lifted/flaking bark. These potential roosting features (PRFs) were found to be exposed with no evidence of bats to indicate current or past use. A small number of shallow knot hole features were recorded on other site trees; however, these were deemed unsuitable for roosting due to limited depth. Roosting bats are expected to be absent from trees within the application boundary.
Connectivity	The site is connected to lines of trees, hedgerows and orchard habitats primarily to the south with a grassland field to the west and a residential settlement north. Connectivity to linear habitats to the north, west and east is fragmented.

Wider landscape	The wider area is a mosaic of grassland and arable fields with small pockets of woodland. Residential settlement dominates the area to the north.
Site value to bats	Woodland provides good foraging habitat for bats and it is expected that a variety of bat species feed on insects under the tree canopies and along the woodland edge. Site habitats are connected to lines of trees and hedgerows on the boundaries of the field immediately south and subsequently connected to orchard trees to the southeast; however, connectivity into the wider area is fragmented. The woodland onsite is not expected to be important to commuting bats that may roost in the local area but does offer limited potential for commuting bats and foraging opportunities.



Photograph 7: Tree in poor condition with PRFs.



Photograph 8: Lifted Bark.



Photograph 9: Knot hole and split branch.



10: View into knot hole cavity.

Dormice

- 3.6 The woodland on site is dominated by Norway Maple and Common Lime, and although broad-leaved woodland is generally considered suitable habitat for Dormice, the limited variety of woodland species present limits the range of foraging opportunities and the woodland shrub layer is limited to very small pockets of habitat. The woodland on site is small in area but connects to hedgerow, lines of trees and orchard habitats. No evidence of Dormice was recorded on site and the potential for presence within the application boundary is deemed to be low; however, it is possible that this species is present in suitable habitat in the local area including habitats connected to on-site woodland.

Badgers

- 3.7 The grassland field provide good foraging habitat for Badgers with potential for the construction of setts associated with woodland. The site and immediate surroundings where accessible were searched for evidence of Badgers such as dung pits, latrines, digging, hairs, snuffle marks of which none were found. Badger activity is likely to be limited to passing individuals.

Otters and Water Voles

- 3.8 There are no suitable watercourses on or in the near vicinity of the site and no potential for these species to be present.

Other mammals

- 3.9 Hedgehogs are expected to be present in the local area with potential for Hedgehogs and common small mammals on site. Deer and Fox may also pass through the site occasionally. The potential for other protected or notable species is deemed to be low.

Birds

- 3.10 The site provides potential nesting and foraging habitat in woodland trees and shrubs with the grassland providing limited foraging opportunities. The frequently cut grassland is considered to be unsuitable for ground nesting birds.
- 3.11 The site was surveyed within the bird nesting season of March – August. No current nesting was recorded but old nesting material was recorded within the branches of a tree and birds are expected to nest in suitable habitats on site in future.



Photograph 11: Nesting material in a tree.

Reptiles

- 3.12 The site provides sub-optimal habitat for reptiles with the entire woodland area being heavily shaded providing poor habitat for thermoregulation and the adjacent grassland field is cut short offering little cover, potentially exposing reptiles to predation. Reptiles are expected to be absent from the site.

Amphibians

- 3.13 The site provides terrestrial habitat for amphibians in woodland although the grassland provides little cover. With regards to the specially protected Great Crested Newt there are no ponds on site but one pond within 250 m of the application site, located within a garden approximately

230 m to the southeast. This pond was subject to Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index Assessment, the results of which are shown below.



Photograph 12: Pond 1.

Table 4: Habitat Suitability Index Assessment.

Factor		HSI Factor Score	Criteria
1	SI1 – Location	1	The pond is located in optimal Zone A.
2	SI2 - Pond Area	0.05	< 50 m ²
3	SI3 – Pond Drying	0.9	Never dries
4	SI4 – Water Quality	0.67	Average
5	SI5 – Shade	1	40%
6	SI6 – Fowl	1	No waterfowl observed and no indication of presence
7	SI7 – Fish	0.67	No evidence of fish but the nature of the pond suggests that they may be present
8	SI8 – Ponds	0.01	No ponds within 1 km.
9	SI9 – Terrestrial Habitat	0.67	Moderate. The pond is immediately surrounded by typical garden habitats with woodland and short pasture in the local area
10	SI10 – Macrophytes	0.9	60%. A combination of lilies and other submerged aquatic plants likely to reach the pond surface.
HSI Pond Score		0.41	

3.14 Pond 1, through HSI assessment, is classed as providing 'poor pond suitability' for Great Crested Newts. This is below the 0.5 threshold where further surveys are usually required.

- 3.15 There were no other ponds indicated on OS maps or aerial images within 500 m of the application site.
- 3.16 Given the low suitability of Pond 1 and absence of other ponds in the wider area, Great Crested Newts are expected to be absent from the application site and no adverse impact to amphibians is predicted.

Invertebrates

- 3.17 Woodland provides the most important invertebrate habitat on site with the grassland and tall ruderals providing further limited invertebrate opportunity. Whilst the site is expected to support a range of common invertebrate assemblages, the potential for notable or protected species is low.

4.0 Development Constraints and Recommendations

Development Proposals

- 4.1 The proposals for the site are to seek planning permission for the erection of two residential dwellings with access off Swan Meadow.

Habitats

- 4.2 The narrow band of woodland parallel to Swan Meadow is not likely to classify as a NERC Priority Habitat given its small size and the abundance of non-native Norway Maple. Felling of trees proposed to allow for the development. No significance is associated with clearance of small areas of woodland habitat provided some existing woodland is retained and new woodland planting is proposed in the local area (planting of woodland trees expected to be a requirement associated with biodiversity net gain).
- 4.3 The grassland sward within the field to the south of the woodland was clearly not of sufficient diversity to meet the criteria to qualify as NERC Priority Habitat. This habitat is of low ecological value and no significance is associated with clearance of a small area of this habitat.
- 4.4 The only other vegetated habitat present on site is a narrow band of tall ruderal habitat between the woodland and adjacent road. This habitat does not qualify as NERC Priority Habitat and is of low ecological value; any clearance is not deemed significant.
- 4.5 Where new areas of habitat are to be created, consideration should be given to the seeding of these areas using appropriate seed mixes. Where possible these seeds should be locally sourced to support the genetic integrity of local wild plant populations. Where new trees or shrubs are to be planted, native tree and shrub species should be used as these are most beneficial to invertebrates, and many also produce seeds, nuts and berries that are food for native mammals and birds. Planting of non-native plant species should be limited to those that are not invasive and should prioritise those that provide a good source of nectar for invertebrates.
- 4.6 The application will require Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment and will require to show a 10% net gain in value. This is likely to require planting of woodland and creation or enhancement of grassland habitats.

Protected and Notable Species

Bats

- 4.7 Trees did not provide any suitable roosting features for bats. However, as a precaution, when felling trees or if pruning of branches is required, the following procedures should be employed in the highly unlikely event that a bat or bats are discovered during works:
- If the roost is still on the tree and bats are not injured, seek advice from a licensed ecologist. If help is not available, allow bats to fly out of harm's way.
 - If the timber is felled, the roost is not exposed and the bats are not injured, temporarily seal and isolate the roost and seek advice from a licensed ecologist. If advice is not readily available, position the roost off the ground, re-open it and allow bats to relocate of their own accord.

- If the roost has been exposed, and especially if bats have been injured, collect bats in a secure box or bag (using a glove) and contact a licensed ecologist.
 - Note the date, locality, type of tree, situation in tree and bat species if known.
- 4.8 The site provides bat foraging habitat within the woodland and woodland edge with grassland providing further foraging opportunity. The woodland is connected to linear habitats in the wider area and is therefore may be used by commuting bats. Trees will be removed to allow for the development. Any planting of woodland in the local area would provide new foraging habitat for bats and proposed planting of hedgerows on the boundaries of the site (existing woodland edge) will provide new foraging and commuting habitat. Trees would be retained on site and a near continuous canopy maintained. Provided a suitable lighting strategy is implemented, the development is not expected to negatively affect bats' ability to commuting through the site and bat activity surveys are unlikely to be appropriate. However, if significant breaches in the woodland become necessary, bat activity surveys are likely to be required (see specification below).
- 4.9 In accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust Good Practice Guidelines – Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists (Collins, 2023) habitats deemed to have moderate suitability for bats should be subject to one survey visit per season (Spring – April/May, Summer – June/July/August, Autumn – September/October) in appropriate weather conditions for bats. Data should be collected for a minimum of five consecutive nights per month (April – October) by installation of automated /static bat detectors. If bat activity on site is found to be higher than predicted, more survey effort may be required.
- 4.10 A lighting strategy should be put in place to ensure that any impacts through lighting, both during construction and residual impacts, are minimised or avoided altogether. Measures should include the use of lighting only where absolutely necessary utilising highly directional warm white LED lighting, an example being down spots at 2.5 m high using warm white (2700 K) 8W LED lamps, 550 lumens, 35 degree beam angle. These could be individually activated by PIR sensors on a 1 minute cut off to further reduce their impacts. These will assist in lighting only the areas where lighting is required and minimising light spill either directly or through reflected light. Lighting of any new roosting features created on buildings and/or trees should be avoided.
- 4.11 The proposed development is expected to provide opportunities to significantly enhance the site for roosting bats by incorporating roosts into the new buildings and these will usually be requested by the local planning authority. There are many ways that the buildings could be enhanced for crevice-dwelling bat species (virtually all UK bat species) without inconveniencing prospective occupants or requiring any significant design considerations. Bat tubes, panels, shelters or boxes can be installed in suitable locations around the site usually, ideally close to cover and at the apices of gable ends. A variety of aspects increases the likelihood of colonisation. Bat boxes can also be erected on retained trees.

Dormice

- 4.12 The site provides potential dormouse habitat within the woodland although any potential for presence is considered to be low given the low diversity of tree species and lack of significant shrub later. A section of the woodland will be removed to allow for the development.
- 4.13 Suitable habitat on site is small in area and this being the case, a full survey for this species is not possible on the site alone. Given the size of the site and low potential for impacts to Dormice

within the application boundary, it is recommended works can be carried out in accordance to a method statement detailing precautionary methods of working for this species when removing woodland trees.

Badgers and other mammals

- 4.14 Hedgehogs and common small mammals are expected to be present on site but potential for other protected or notable species is limited to passing mammals. It is recommended that during the construction phase of the project any trenches and other excavations are back-filled before nightfall or a ramp left to allow animals to easily exit, and any open pipes larger than 150 mm should be capped off overnight.
- 4.15 Should mammals such as Hedgehog be encountered during works on site they would be carefully moved by hand to areas of retained suitable habitat, such as woodland or orchard in the local area where they can re-locate off site on their own accord.

Birds

- 4.16 The survey has concluded that nesting birds are expected to use site habitats in future. All nesting birds are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and amendments). No further surveys are recommended at this time; however, it is recommended that clearance of suitable nesting habitats (felling of trees and removal of shrubs) be carried out outside of the bird-nesting season of March to August. Where this is not possible the vegetation would need to be surveyed for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to works commencing. If they are found, then the nest and surrounding habitat must remain intact until the young have fledged.
- 4.17 New buildings are likely to provide a good opportunity to enhance the site for birds and the following options could be explored for inclusion on the sides of the buildings:
- Nest boxes for Swifts could be incorporated into the eaves. These not only provide nesting sites for Swifts but can also be used by other species such as House Sparrows and Starlings.
 - House Martin nests could be provided under the eaves or on the north to east sides of the building.
 - Individual boxes, such as the Schwegler Bird Home 1MR, could also be installed at a height of at least 2 m.
 - Groups of multiple small bird boxes could also be installed at a height of least 2 m to provide nesting sites for birds such as House Sparrows.
 - Nest boxes could also be installed on retained trees.
- 4.18 In order to compensate for any loss of foraging habitat and/or enhance the site, it is recommended that any new planting concentrate on species that are native to the area and ideally produce a range of seeds and berries at varying times of the year. Nectar rich plants could also be used to encourage invertebrates on to the site, which in turn provide food for birds as well as other species such as bats.

Invertebrates

- 4.19 The proposals will result in the loss of habitat in the form of a small number of woodland trees; however, new habitats within the proposed development are expected to at least partially compensate for habitat loss and habitat creation associated with biodiversity net gain requirements is likely to increase the value of the site to invertebrates.
- 4.20 It is suggested that deadwood piles are created within suitable locations on the site to provide continued opportunities for invertebrates.

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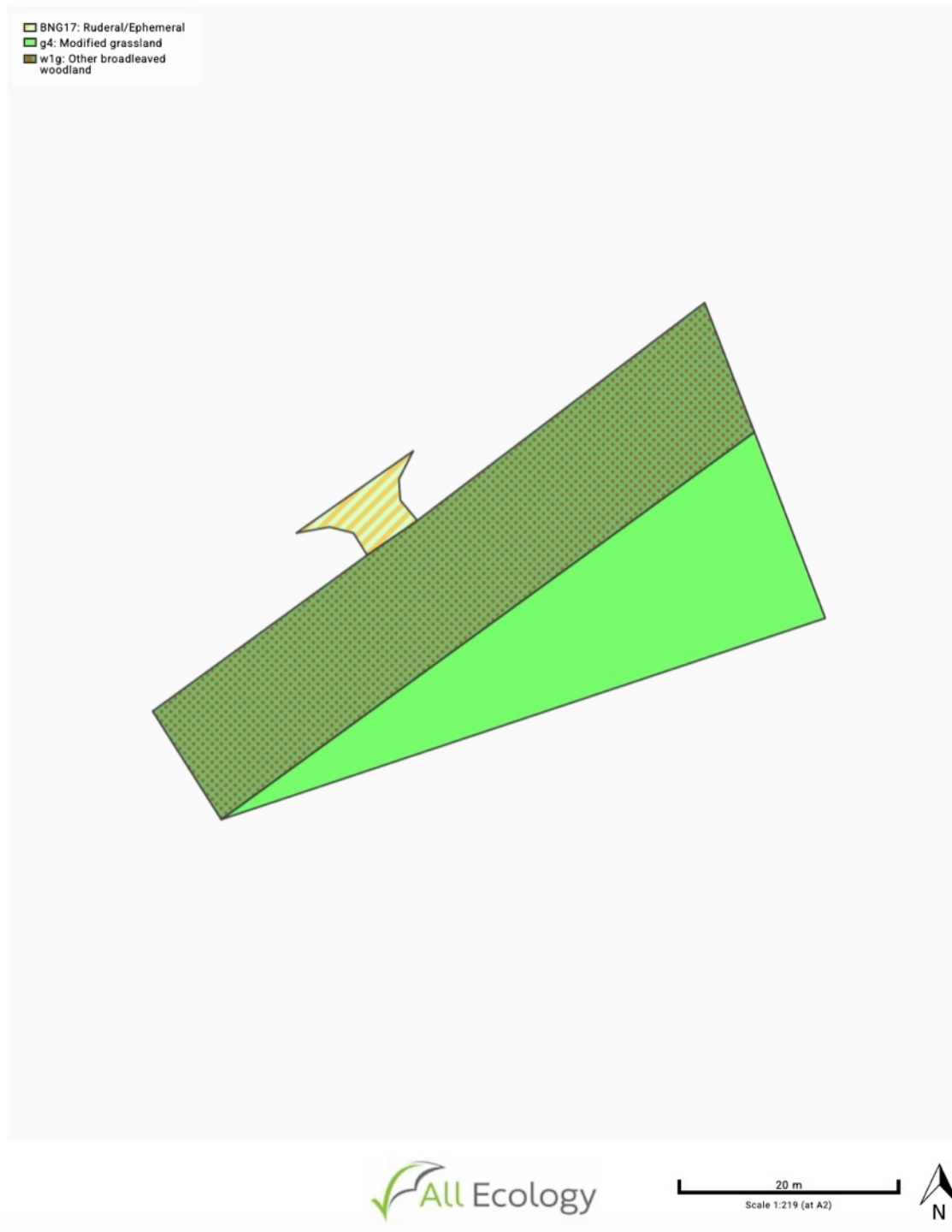
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6.0 Plans

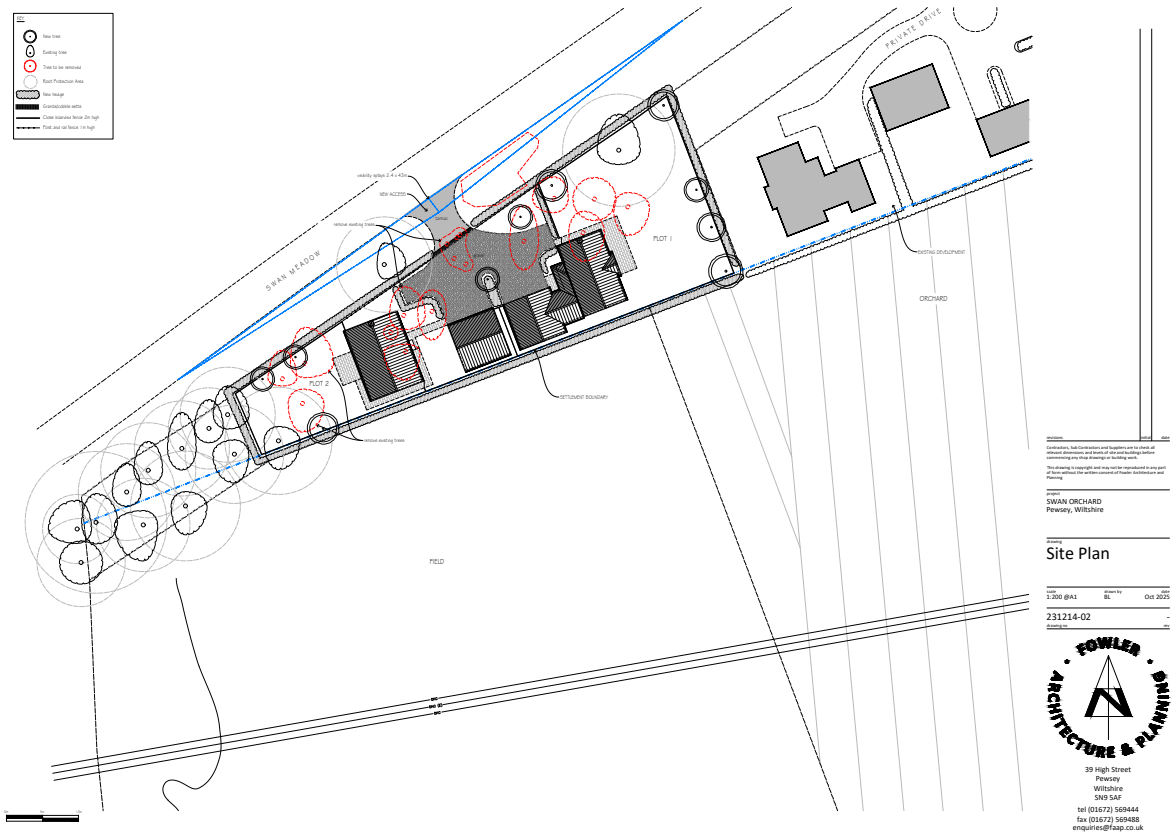
Plan 1 – UKHab Baseline Habitat Plan

Swan Orchard, Pewsey
July 2025

UKHab Baseline Habitat Plan



Plan 2 – Site Plan



7.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Dormouse Method Statement

- 7.1 The site provides low quality habitats in terms of potential habitats for Dormice in the form of species-poor broadleaved woodland with limited shrub layer.
- 7.2 For a small site such as this, it is not possible to satisfy the typical survey requirements, which are based on 50 tubes at least 10 m apart. This being the case, given the small size of the site and minimal potential for presence of this species, rather than carrying out a non-standard survey, it is proposed to carry out all works under a precautionary method statement using reasonable avoidance measures to ensure that no Dormice are disturbed or harmed during the works.
- 7.3 The following is proposed with regard to the removal of a section of woodland approximately 0.055 ha in area.
- 7.4 Works will only take place between April and October to avoid the sensitive hibernation period, when Dormice could also be present underground. In the event and nests or Dormice are found to be present, works will cease and the need for additional measures e.g. licensing, determined.
- 7.5 Retained trees will be protected by establishing root protection zones in accordance with BS 5837:2012, where appropriate.
- 7.6 New hedgerow planting and planting of woodland, where proposed, are expected to partially compensate for loss of existing woodland habitat.
- 7.7 It is considered that the above measures present a proportionate strategy to take into account the possible presence of Dormice and the proposed development, which would require the removal of small areas of their potential habitat which was deemed to be low in value.